

Underground Fuel Tanks

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A DDES Customer Information Bulletin



King County Department of Development and Environmental Services
900 Oakesdale Avenue Southwest Renton, Washington 98055-1219

<http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/>

Frequently Asked Questions

King County DDES has created customer information bulletins to inform the general public about the effect of codes and regulations on their projects. These bulletins are not intended to be complete statements of all laws and rules and should not be used as substitutes for them. If conflicts and questions arise, current codes and regulations are the final authority. Because the codes and regulations may be revised or amended at any time, consult King County staff to be sure you understand all requirements before beginning work. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that each project meets all requirements of applicable codes and regulations.

Removal or abandonment of out-of-service underground tanks

This bulletin outlines the requirements to obtain a permit to remove or abandon-in-place residential or commercial-type underground tanks that are not in use.

Legal authority to require decommissioning of tanks

A. Residential fuel-oil tanks

Residential fuel-oil tanks that have not been used for one year shall be removed from the ground or may be abandoned-in-place in a prescribed manner.

Section 6106, Abandonment of Tanks, 1997 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code, as amended by Washington State reads as follows:

“Tanks and piping serving oil-burning equipment which have been out of service for a period of one year shall be removed from the ground or abandoned in place in accordance with Section 7902.1.7 of this code.”

B. Commercial-type tanks

Any commercial-type underground tank used to store flammable or combustible liquid that has been out of service for one year shall be removed from the ground. Under certain conditions, however, a commercial-type tank may be abandoned-in-place.

Section 7902.1.7.2.3, Underground Tanks out of Service for One Year, 1997 Edition of the Uniform Fire Code

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reads as follows:

“Underground tanks which have been out of service for a period of one year shall be removed from the ground in accordance with Section 7902.1.7.4 and the site shall be restored in an approved manner. When the chief determines that removal of the tank is not necessary abandonment in place is allowed.”

What are the requirements for obtaining a Commercial Permit to remove an underground storage tank?

To obtain a permit for removing a commercial-type tank, you must submit the following information:

A. Cover Sheet (three copies) showing:

1. The address of the property
2. The name of the property owner
3. The property tax account number

B. Drawings (three copies) showing:

1. All property lines and buildings on the property
2. The location of the tank(s) in proximity to buildings and/or property lines (indicate separation distances in feet)
3. The type of liquid in the tanks (fuel-oil, gasoline, etc.)
4. The size (in gallons) of the tank(s)
5. A clear indication of actions to be taken regarding the tank(s) (specify removal of tank(s) or abandonment-in-place)

C. Additional Information Required:

1. Identify the company/firm and the Washington State Contractor's License Number of the company/firm removing the tank(s) or abandoning the tank(s) in place.

Issuance of a permit is limited to an individual or company holding a Washington State Contractor's License and who possess the knowledge, expertise, and necessary equipment for handling flammable or combustible liquid tanks.

2. Identify the manner in which the tank(s) will be decommissioned (i.e., removed from the ground or abandoned-in-place).

If tanks are to be abandoned-in-place, indicate what material will be used to fill the tank.

- ◆ Cement slurry mix
- ◆ Approved foam agent

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What are the requirements for obtaining a Residential Permit to remove an underground storage tank?

The following requirements must be met to obtain a Residential Permit to remove an underground tank:

- A. A permit from King County is not required for individual sites.**
- B. A contractor approved by King County must be used for tank removal or abandonment.**
- C. The contractor will supply King County with certification that the tank was properly removed or abandoned.**

Additional Information

The following additional information should be considered when applying for a permit to remove an underground fuel-storage tank:

- ◆ Most residential fuel-oil tanks may be abandoned-in-place.
- ◆ Commercial-type underground tanks shall be removed from the ground except when special approval is given to abandon them in place.
- ◆ A final inspection will be conducted of all commercial tank removal activities to determine if the tank removal or abandonment-in-place was handled properly.

Permit Fees

The permit fees to remove underground tanks or abandon them in place are established by King County Ordinance (K.C.C. Title 27). For information regarding current fees, contact staff at the Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) at 206-296-6600.

Note: All required fees are due at the time of permit application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Other bulletins and telephone numbers that may be helpful

Bulletin 1 Building and Development Permit Telephone Numbers

Bulletin 6 Working with Contractors

Bulletin 7 Mobile Home Permits

Bulletin 9 Obtaining a Residential Building Permit

Bulletin 11 Street Addresses and Road Names

Bulletin 12 The Residential Building Permit Process

Bulletin 21 Sensitive Areas Review

Bulletin 28 Clearing and Grading Permits

206-296-6600 Department of Development and Environmental Services



King County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require an accommodation to attend a meeting (two weeks' notice) or require this information in Braille, audiocassette, or large print, please call 206-296-6693 or TTY 206-296-7217.